

In the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A MHC class II antigenic peptide comprising
 - (a) ~~the amino acid sequence of the peptide binding motif selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs. 49 to 57 and SEQ ID NOs. 103 to 122, or~~
 - (b) the amino acid sequence of the peptide binding motif selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs. 49 to 57 and SEQ ID NOs. 103 to 122, with additional N-and C-terminal flanking sequences of a corresponding sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs. 1 to 3 39 and SEQ ID NOs. 58 to 102.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Previously amended) The MHC class II antigenic peptide of claim 1 comprising
 - (a) the amino acid sequence of the peptide binding motif of SEQ ID NO. 103, or
 - (b) the amino acid sequence of the peptide binding motif of SEQ ID NO. 103 with additional N-and C-terminal flanking sequences of the corresponding sequence of SEQ ID NOs. 58 and 59.
4. (Previously amended) The MHC class II antigenic peptide of claim 1 comprising
 - (a) the amino acid sequence of the peptide binding motif of SEQ ID NO. 104, or
 - (b) the amino acid sequence of the peptide binding motif of SEQ ID NO. 104 with additional N-and C-terminal flanking sequences of the corresponding sequence of SEQ ID NO. 60.
5. (Previously amended) The MHC class II antigenic peptide of claim 1 comprising
 - (a) the amino acid sequence of the peptide binding motif of SEQ ID NO. 105, or
 - (b) the amino acid sequence of the peptide binding motif of SEQ ID NO. 105 with additional N-and C-terminal flanking sequences of the corresponding sequence of SEQ ID NO. 61.
6. (Previously amended) The MHC class II antigenic peptide of claim 1 comprising

- (a) the amino acid sequence of the peptide binding motif of SEQ ID NO. 106, or
 - (b) the amino acid sequence of the peptide binding motif of SEQ ID NO. 106 with additional N-and C-terminal flanking sequences of the corresponding sequence of SEQ ID NO. 62.
7. (Previously amended) The MHC class II antigenic peptide of claim 1 comprising
- (a) the amino acid sequence of the peptide binding motif of SEQ ID NO. 107, or
 - (b) the amino acid sequence of the peptide binding motif of SEQ ID NO. 107 with additional N-and C-terminal flanking sequences of the corresponding sequence of SEQ ID NO. 63.
8. (Previously amended) The MHC class II antigenic peptide of claim 1 comprising
- (a) the amino acid sequence of the peptide binding motif of SEQ ID NO. 50, or
 - (b) the amino acid sequence of the peptide binding motif of SEQ ID NO. 50 with additional N-and C-terminal flanking sequences of the corresponding sequence of SEQ ID NO. 5.
9. (Previously amended) The MHC class II antigenic peptide of claim 1 comprising
- (a) the amino acid sequence of the peptide binding motif of SEQ ID NO. 108, or
 - (b) the amino acid sequence of the peptide binding motif of SEQ ID NO. 108 with additional N-and C-terminal flanking sequences of the corresponding sequence of SEQ ID NOs. 64 to 67.
10. (Previously amended) The MHC class II antigenic peptide of claim 1 comprising
- (a) the amino acid sequence of the peptide binding motif of SEQ ID NO. 109, or
 - (b) the amino acid sequence of the peptide binding motif of SEQ ID NO. 109 with additional N-and C-terminal flanking sequences of the corresponding sequence of SEQ ID NO. 68.

11. (Previously amended) The MHC class II antigenic peptide of claim 1 comprising
 - (a) the amino acid sequence of the peptide binding motif of SEQ ID NO. 110, or
 - (b) the amino acid sequence of the peptide binding motif of SEQ ID NO. 110 with additional N-and C-terminal flanking sequences of the corresponding sequence of SEQ ID NOs. 69 and 70.
12. (Previously amended) The MHC class II antigenic peptide of claim 1 comprising
 - (a) the amino acid sequence of the peptide binding motif of SEQ ID NO. 111, or
 - (b) the amino acid sequence of the peptide binding motif of SEQ ID NO. 111 with additional N-and C-terminal flanking sequences of the corresponding sequence of SEQ ID NO. 72.
13. (Previously amended) The MHC class II antigenic peptide of claim 1 comprising
 - (a) the amino acid sequence of the peptide binding motif of SEQ ID NO. 112, or
 - (b) the amino acid sequence of the peptide binding motif of SEQ ID NO. 112 with additional N-and C-terminal flanking sequences of the corresponding sequence of SEQ ID NO. 73.
14. (Previously amended) The MHC class II antigenic peptide of claim 1 linked to a MHC class II molecule.
15. (Previously amended) A purified antibody composition which is selectively reactive to a MHC class II antigenic peptide according to claim 1.
16. (Canceled)
17. (Previously Amended) A host cell containing a recombinant nucleic acid construct comprising a nucleic acid molecule operably linked to an expression vector, wherein the nucleic acid molecule encodes a peptide according to claim 1.

18. (Previously amended) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 17.
- 19-22. (Canceled).
23. (Previously amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a MHC class II antigenic peptide and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein the MHC class II antigenic peptide is selected from the peptide(s) of claim 1 or SEQ ID NOs 40 to 48 and SEQ. ID NOs 123 to 141.
24. (Canceled).
25. (Previously amended) A method for diagnosing RA comprising detecting in a patient serum sample the presence of one or more peptides selected from the group consisting of claim 1 or SEQ ID NOs 40 to 48 and SEQ. ID NOs 123 to 141.
26. - 30. (Canceled).
31. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an antibody according to claim 15 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.